

**U.S. Department of Labor**

Office of Administrative Law Judges  
2 Executive Campus, Suite 450  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

(856) 486-3800  
(856) 486-3806 (FAX)



**Issue Date: 25 April 2006**

Case No.: 2006-SOX-00049

In the Matter of

**EILEEN MORRELL**  
Complainant,

v.

**MCI, INC.**  
Respondent

**ORDER GRANTING COMPLAINANT'S MOTION  
TO WITHDRAW HER CLAIM**

This case arises out of a complaint of discrimination filed pursuant to the employee protection provisions of section 806 of the Corporate and Criminal Fraud Accountability Act of 2002, Title VIII of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, 18 USC 1514A (the Act). The Act affords protection from employment discrimination to employees of companies with a class of securities registered under section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, 15 USC 781, and companies required to file reports under section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. Specifically, the law protects "whistleblower" employees from retaliatory or discriminatory actions by the employer because the employees provided information to their employer, a federal agency, or Congress relating to alleged violations of 18 USC 1341, 1343, 1344, 1348, or any provision of federal law relating to fraud against shareholders.

Eileen Morrell (Complainant) filed a complaint under the Act against MCI, Inc., (Respondent) on July 25, 2005. On December 22, 2005, Complainant received notification from the Regional Administrator of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Labor, that her claim was being dismissed. Complainant appealed the Regional Administrator's decision on January 19, 2006 and requested a formal hearing before the Office of Administrative Law Judges. The case was assigned to me January 25, 2006 and I issued an order setting a hearing for March 9, 2006. On January 23, 2006, Complainant requested that the hearing be continued and on March 16, 2006, I issued an Order continuing the hearing, rescheduling it for May 23 and 24, 2006. On April 21, 2006 Complainant filed a motion seeking to withdraw her complaint and by telephonic conversation of April 24, 2006, Respondent stated that he had no objections to Complainant's request. Complainant seeks instead to pursue her claim in the United States District Court. The Act gives Complainant the

right to bring an action for *de novo* review of her complaint in the appropriate federal district court if the Secretary of Labor has not issued a final decision within 180 days of the filing of her complaint. A review of the case reveals that more than 180 days have passed since Complainant filed her complaint and that Complainant is not responsible for this delay. A final order has not been issued, and a formal hearing has not taken place. Therefore, I will grant Complainant's motion to withdraw her claim.

### **ORDER**

It is hereby **ORDERED** that Complainant's motion to withdraw her claim is **GRANTED**. The formal hearing of this case scheduled for May 23 and 24, 2006 in Binghamton, New York, is hereby **CANCELLED**.

A

**PAUL H. TEITLER**  
Administrative Law Judge

Cherry Hill, New Jersey

**NOTICE OF APPEAL RIGHTS:** This decision shall become the final order of the Secretary of Labor pursuant to 29 C.F.R. § 1980.110, unless a petition for review is timely filed with the Administrative Review Board ("Board"), US Department of Labor, Room S-4309, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20210, and within 30 days of the filing of the petition, the ARB issues an order notifying the parties that the case has been accepted for review. The petition for review must specifically identify the findings, conclusions or orders to which exception is taken. Any exception not specifically urged ordinarily shall be deemed to have been waived by the parties. To be effective, a petition must be filed within ten business days of the date of the decision of the administrative law judge. The date of the postmark, facsimile transmittal, or e-mail communication will be considered to be the date of filing; if the petition is filed in person, by hand-delivery or other means, the petition is considered filed upon receipt. The petition must be served on all parties and on the Chief Administrative Law Judge at the time it is filed with the Board. Copies of the petition for review and all briefs must be served on the Assistant Secretary, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and on the Associate Solicitor, Division of Fair Labor Standards, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210. See 29 C.F.R. §§ 1980.109(c) and 1980.110(a) and (b), as found OSHA, Procedures for the Handling of Discrimination Complaints Under Section 806 of the Corporate and Criminal Fraud Accountability Act of 2002, Title VIII of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002; Interim Rule, 68 Fed. Reg. 31860 (May 29, 2003).